

PRÉCIS

Patients with metastatic melanoma will be immunized with recombinant fowlpox and vaccinia viruses encoding the melanoma associated antigen, tyrosinase. Patients will be eligible for this protocol regardless of HLA type, since tyrosinase contains multiple immunogenic peptides recognized by CD4+ and CD8+ T cells in the context of a variety of HLA alleles. The viruses will be administered intramuscularly on an alternating schedule (heterologous boosting) designed to minimize immune reactions against viral proteins and maximize responses against the tyrosinase transgene. In this randomized phase II therapy trial, patients will be assigned to one of three treatment groups: vaccine alone, vaccine administered with low dose subcutaneous IL-2, or vaccine administered with high dose intravenous IL-2. Patients will be evaluated for clinical as well as immunological responses.